pennsylvania musician

magazine

Vol.41 #484 Feb 2024

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8- Micro Wrestling w/guest appearance by The ECHO Motorama Girls 6pm till 9pm
9- Matt Jameson 8pm till 11pm
10-Lucid Ruby 8pm till 11pm
11- Line Dancing 6pm till 9pm
12- Trivia 6:30pm till 8:30pm
13- DJ KJ Nelson 6pm till 9pm
14- Karaoke 6pm till 9pm
15- Date Night 6pm till 9pm
16- Two Shades of Sound 8pm till 11pm
17- Colt Wilbur Band 8pm till 11pm
19- Trivia 6:30pm till 8:30pm
20- DJ KJ Nelson 6pm till 9pm
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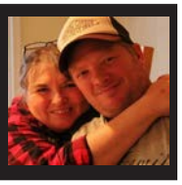
EDITOR RAMBLINGS

By Josh Noll



Welcome back to another issue of PA Musician Magazine. It may be winter, but the shows are stacking up across the state, so there is no reason to hibernate like some crazed grizzly bear. Get out there and enjoy the awesome venues we have across the area.

Coming up soon, The Facktory in Liverpool, PA, is hosting a fundraiser for the Little Buffalo Festival on April 20th at 5:00 pm. There will be an Open Jam/Open Mic, Silent Auction, Maker-space workshop, food vendors, and more! Mentioning it now because there is still plenty of time to get involved with this one, so reach out to mikemcg.littlebuffalofestival@gmail.com for more info. The Little Buffalo Festival takes place on the first Saturday in October from noon to dusk at the beautiful Little Buffalo State Park in Newport, PA. Free admission and fun for everyone. The park features an amazing amphitheater-style stage surrounded by hiking trails, a covered bridge, swimming pool, the old Shoaf's Mill, and a lake for some fishing. Little Buffalo holds a lot of history and is a great location for a day celebrating live music and the arts.

For those unfamiliar with The Facktory, it is an old sewing factory turned into a recreation center. The 7,500 sq ft event and entertainment center is available to rent for your special occasions. It's great for weddings, birthdays, reunions, receptions, and just about any other gathering where you need some space to have fun and relax. With a kitchen area, large seating area, surrounded by Foosball, mini basketball, pool table, and even a half-court basketball setup in the basement area, The Facktory has a lot to offer. For bands, the factory has a stage area with a sound system and is a great place to set up and do some stage practice. The Facktory is the brainchild of Brent Lesperance, who had a vision of what the old sewing factory could become and, through years of hard work, has turned it into something really special. If you have never been there and want to see if it would work for your event, stop by on April 20th and check it out. See the flyer in this issue.

There is a lot going on in February. The bi-annual music festival "Gettysburg Rocks" is on the 23rd and 24th. Be prepared for an action-packed weekend as the venues will be packing Gettysburg and the surrounding areas with bands to benefit the Four Diamonds, supporting children battling pediatric cancer. This is a big weekend for the Racehorse Tavern, and they will have two days full of music to benefit the cause including: Nathan Merovich, Lift Kit Band, Mama's Horn, Blessed Be The Broken on the 23rd; Brian Griswold, Jonathan Frazier, Screamin Egrets, Bad Mojo, Decipher Life, Project 24, Gravy, and the Wyatt Becker Band, on the 24th. Check out the Racehorse ad in this issue for times and his full February lineup.

If you're looking for something a little different this month, Reverb in Reading and the Sherman's Creek Inn in Shermans Dale are both having a wrestling night with Midget Mayhem! on the 7th at Reverb and Micro-wrestling all-stars on the 8th at the Creek, along with a guest appearance by The ECHO Motorama Girls. Check out both full schedules on pages 2 and 3 and support the venues that work hard to bring in new bands and events to keep us all satisfied.

Look through the paper and check out all the other venues that are supporting the scene and give them some love. Sometimes a little trip out of town is needed this time of year to keep you sane. Thank you to the following clubs: Pappy T's, Laureldale Athletic Assoc., The Eagle Hotel, 717 Entertainment and Lovedraft's Brewing Co., XL Live, Union House. February is a tough month for small business, so get out and support.

If you would like to support this small business —striving to unite the music industry— give me a ring or text at 717-636-4203 or send me an email at joshnoll@pamusician.net. Or, I always love snail mail – send stickers and other bribes to PA Musician Magazine, 178 Andy Stroup Rd, Liverpool, PA 17045. Send $25 and a funny joke for a limited edition PA Musician Mystery Package. Jokes will be printed in the next issue. Take care and have a nice day! See you next month.

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Thurs. 2/8: Middletown Anglers & Hunters, 7-10pm
Fri. 2/9: Shermans Creek Inn, Shermans Dale, 8-11pm
Sat. 2/10: Al's Pizza & Subs, Enola, PA, 8-10:30pm
Tues. 2/13: Liquid Noise, Marysville, PA, 6:30-8:30pm
Fri. 2/16: Flinchy's, Camp Hill, PA, 8-11pm
Sat. 2/17: Copper Pub, Harrisburg, PA, 7-10pm
Sun. 2/18: Wolf Brewing, Mechanicsburg, 11-2pm
Wed. 2/21: Blue Sky OPEN MIC, Goldsboro, 6:30-8:30
Thurs. 2/22: Beerded Goat, Harrisburg, 6:30-9:30pm
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OUT 'n' ABOUT

By Rachel Rocks

February, the month for lovers, music lovers especially! It's time to heat up those venues with warm bodies and support as much live music as possible. I had an amazing month filled with tons of music, travel, fun and shenanigans galore. There is never a dull moment in my life and for that I am grateful. Big news that happened in January was the nominees for the 5th Annual CPMAs were announced. Now in February, the official voting begins on February 4th. If you want to support the favorite musicians in your life, make sure you get ready to vote for your favorites!

This month's article starts a long time ago on New Year's Eve Day at Snapper's with Matt Jameson Acoustic. Snapper's decided to do an early New Year's Eve Party and it was a huge success. Snapper's was absolutely packed! The party started at Noon and had a line at the door waiting to get in. Matt played from 1-4pm, with a countdown til 3pm. It was a perfect time that allowed Snapper's to still have their special New Year's Eve dinner, and still allowed people plenty of time to get home or to New Year's Eve parties with family and friends. Matt did an amazing job at playing requests and he even learned Auld Lang Syne for the toast at 3pm. Congrats to Matt Jameson for being nominated for the Male Cover Artist of 2023 in the CPMAs.

After a super relaxing trip to Florida with my hubby, it didn't take long to get back Out and About supporting music. My first stop was on a Wednesday, Derek Henry was playing on the new trainwreck deck at Flinchy's. I met up with Angie and had a great night getting the gang all back together again! Poor Derek has to put up with all of our shenanigans, but he is always a good sport and handles are craziness with ease! Derek is nominated for the Best Male Vocalist and the Best Rock Band (Observe the 93rd) at this year's CPMAs.

On a Thursday night I headed down to the Carlisle Moose for Matt Jameson. My good friend Mark Snyder came down to join me, it's always fun seeing someone experience Matt's show for the first time. I take for granted the huge variety of songs Matt covers, but hearing someone be amazed every time he starts playing another genre, or generation of music, it really helps remind me how versatile he is and how awesome and rare that is, especially from a solo musician. Matt also had a very special guest join him on stage, Ted Frengel with the band, Mid-Life Crisis, brought his bass to join Matt on stage. It was pretty awesome to see how talented they both were, and how awesome they sounded playing together. Ted also sang with Matt and could harmonize flawlessly. It was a very awesome night of music, and I'm glad I didn't miss it. Ted also had a huge crowd there celebrating his retirement, congrats Ted! He might've retired from a desk job, but hopefully it will allow him even more time to play music!

On a Friday night I was able to stay close to home, but hear lots of music. I started off early with a trip to Copper Pub to have some delicious dinner and listen to Dave Gates. Even though the night was young, Dave was already taking requests, getting the ladies on the dance floor, and things were already getting crazy! Dave recently started his own podcast, the Solo Musician Podcast. As of today he has 3 episodes, and all 3 are amazing! If you are a gigging musician, and you want some super helpful advice, check it out for yourself at davegates.org. Congrats also to Dave for being nominated for Best Male Cover Artist in the CPMAs.

Next up I headed down the street to the Linglestown Legion

continue on next page...

Dave Gates at Copper Pub

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for Ten Ton Stone. It's been a while since I saw them, and they've really been building a fan base, and bringing the party to venues all around central PA. Ten Ton Stone had the Legion packed and tables had to be moved to make more room for dancing! It's always awesome when you see a crowd being so involved, singing and dancing along. Ten Ton Stone really brought the energy to the stage, and it showed! If you'd like to read more about Ten Ton Stone, check out their cover story in this month's issue. Do yourself a favor and get these guys and gal booked at your venue or private party before it's too late!

Strangest of Places

Well the night still wasn't over, next I zoomed out to Grantville to see the new Vertigo Vultures line up at Hollywood. Their new lead singer OwenX had big shoes to fill, and I'm glad to say he filled them! I was a little scared when I heard that Kyle was leaving, but these guys definitely didn't miss a beat. I'm so glad these guys can continue to bring one heck of a show while rockin' out to all of your favorite classic rock hits!

Next up is a band I've been told to check out for quite a few years, but our schedules never aligned until now, that would be Strangest of Places. I caught them playing on a snowy Friday night at Grotto Pub. Grotto was absolutely packed! It was the first time I saw them carry the tables out, so there was more room for the people! I've seen most of these musicians playing in different bands, but never all together! I've never witnessed Fred Pellegrini playing the keys before, and that was quite a treat! Mike Banks singing lead, Pete Netznik on guitar, Dave Harris on bass, and Jim Aguzzi on drums! What a line-up. I can't believe it's taken me this long to see these guys! I'm not a huge "jam band" fan, but I could listen to these guys for hours. What a night! Do yourself a favor and don't take as long as I did to see these guys! Trust me you won't be disappointed!

Vertigo Vultures

The next night was a trip down to York. I started my night working for BRP Entertainment at Hollywood York with Dance Fever. It was awesome to hear that they had the entire restaurant part of the venue sold out! Before the show even started we already knew it was going to be a great night! The crowd was up dancing from the 1st song of the night, and they never stopped! Dance Fever definitely knows how to party. They thought of every detail, down to their shoes, to make sure their fans would have a night to remember.

After Dance Fever I headed to Racehorse Tavern for The Jess Zimmerman Band. This was their debut performance at the Racehorse, and they had the place packed in tight! It was a beautiful sight to see so many people wearing Jess Zimmerman Band merch. I love seeing fans totally immersed in a band, loving every minute of every song. The Jess Zimmerman Band have been busy winning awards all of the place, one of those was the Josie Music Awards for Best CountryRock band of the year! They performed on the Grand Ole Opry stage as part of the Josie Music Awards show, they sure did represent PA, and they made us proud. They are also nominated in three categories for the CPMAs, Best Country Band, Best Female Vocalist, and the Album of the Year for "Be the Light". If you want a special treat, give this band a listen on your favorite streaming platform, and get out to a show!

Rachel, Jess Zimmerman & Jimmy

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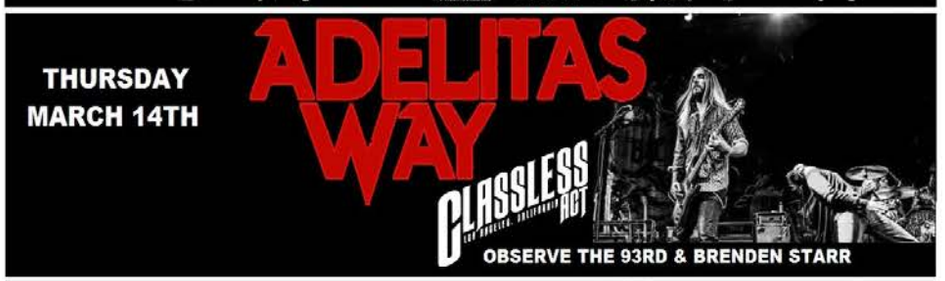

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Out & About continued...

On a much calmer Thursday night, I headed out to Wild Rabbit Pies & Pints to listen to Phil Cannizzaro. The Wild Rabbit has been open quite a while now, but it was my first visit. It's a pretty cool place! It has a nice long bar where you can order all of your EverGrain favorites, and lucky for me some tasty sodas too. They also have a small arcade in the back with Pinball, Skeeball, and more! There is a little bit for everyone. Phil had a great crowd and everyone was having a great time!

On my way home I decided to stop in and see Chuck Britton at Sturges. Chuck was jamming again with his friends; Steve Jewett on guitar, and John Staz on percussion. The Sturges crowd loves supporting live music. It's always awesome to see people actually tuned in, listening intently to the music, and clapping when the songs are over. The Sturges Speakeasy is definitely a cool spot to catch your favorite band/musician on a Thursday night.

Dance Fever

Phil at Wild Rabbit

On a Friday night I headed out right after work down to the Lebanon County Builders Association's Wine & Chill Night at the Home Builders Show for DMC Duo and Honkytonk Medics. They actually had it set up pretty cool, with two different stages across from each other so the night was constantly filled with music. Each band played for 30 mins and then immediately switched

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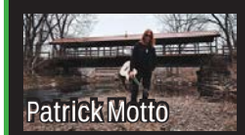

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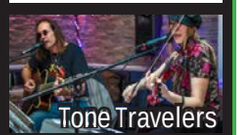

SAT FEB 10th
"The Big Interview"
Chris Silvagni and Gary Lynn..

Here are just a few of the bands and artists coming to the Pipeline in FEB & MARCH

Patrick Motto--The Heartstrings--Tone Travelers--Tony Wilkens & Undertone--
--Bailey Appleby--Ron Fleeger III--91 Stitches--more TBA...

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to the other one. They also had a bunch of tables in the middle where you could just chill and enjoy some food and beverages. It was a great mix of music and everyone seemed to enjoy the music as they were checking out the vendors. DMC Duo is also nominated for Best Duo in the CPMAs.

The night wasn't over yet. My final stop was at Flinchy's for Matt Jameson's show to celebrate Ali's birthday. I was so excited to see how packed it was and that Ali was being well loved from everyone at the bar. Ali has helped me a lot through my sobriety, and my girl always hooks me up with the best mocktails filled with cherries!! Ali also recently got her first nursing job! Way to go girl! So proud of you. I hope you had the happiest birthday ever!!

Last but not least I started off my day super early with an Ice Hike at Ricketts Glen State Park with Missy. We went with an amazing group I found called Women Empowered by Nature. It is a Facebook Group with a bunch of super cool women who do lots of cool stuff! The Ice Hike was as amazing as I thought it could be, even though a lot of the ice melted it was still beautiful. After the ice hike we went to Berwick Brewing Company, not only did they have a vast beer selection, but they also had a Soda Bar with lots of soda choices, including Moxie! I was super excited!! After some games of ginormous Jenga, we hit the road for home. On my way I was being harassed for not being at Matt's show at the Horn Pub, so I pushed through and made it for the last hour of his show. Another packed and crazy show, and it was a bonus when they paid him to play an extra hour so I got to see even more! So many friends were there and I made my rounds saying Hi to everyone. Matt had guest performances throughout the night, I missed most, but I did get to see Shannon Bob sing us a couple songs! We are "never not having fun!" at a Matt Jameson show! I'm happy the new owners at the Horn Pub are having music once again! What a great ending to a fabulous day!

That's a rap for this month! Always so much to see and do. February has another family beach trip planned, and a trip for BRP out to Indiana, but even though I won't be around much, you can guarantee I will still see as much music as I possibly can. If you see me Out and About please say Hi! Any questions or comments, please email me at RachelRocks@pamusician.net. Make sure and check out our website, www.pamusician.net. And last but not least… SUPPORT LOCAL MUSIC!!!

NATIONALS

By Eric Hoffman

Greetings Rockers 'N' Rollers! 2024 has begun with many talented local shows in Central Pennsylvania, while the National band scene has its quiet time of the year. Skid Row Garage in York had a great triple bill with sets from Bo Deadlys, The Super High-Tech Jet Fighters and Timmy's Creepshow. Quite possibly three of the best bands currently in Central PA. Skid Row Garage is becoming more and more popular as a great venue for live bands since they opened in May 2023 with a performance by The Virus. Bo Deadlys, The Super High-Tech Jet Fighters and Edgewood all join together again at Mechanicsburg's Metropolis on February 9th. The Luv Gods played Hollywood Casino in York on January 12th and 13th. The band's current lineup consists of Shea Quinn, Steven Swisher, Phil Cannizzaro, James Klippel and Greg Folsom.

Legendary local experimental jam band, Hexbelt, returned

continued on next page..

Nationals continued....

to HMAC's Stage On Herr on January 13th for the zodiac Capricorn Birthday Celebration. Hexbelt have been around for decades and continue to play wonderful shows featuring their blend of blues, funk, ska and rock-n-roll. The band has a very loyal fan base that always brings a great evening of dancing and joy. The following week, Hexbelt singer Dann Ottemiller played an acoustic set opening for Jerry Joseph at Harrisburg's XL Live on January 18th. Jerry Joseph is an incredible artist that began playing guitar professionally at the age of 15. He began his music career in 1982 with rock/reggae band, Little Women, which lasted until 1993. Joseph then began a solo career until forming the Jackmormons, while living in Utah. He then formed the group, Stockholm Syndrome, with Widespread Panic bassist, Dave Schools. Joseph continues to tour regularly playing songs from all three of his previous bands reworked to fit his current solo acoustic aesthetic.

Summer tours by many known National artists are being announced almost daily. Janet Jackson and Nelly have partnered for 35 dates on her "Together Again Tour." The tour visits Philadelphia, Baltimore, Washington DC and Hersheypark Stadium on July 6th. Sum 41's farewell tour titled "Tour Of The Setting Sum" includes 76-shows worldwide including Baltimore's Pier 6 on April 29th and Reading's Santander Arena on May 8th. Sum 41's final show will take place January 25th, 2025, in their home province of Ontario at Toronto's Scotiabank Arena. Avril Lavigne announced a 27-date tour dubbed "Avril Lavigne: The Greatest Hits. Special guests All Time Low, and Simple Plan will join Avril Lavigne at Camden, NJ on August 29th and Bristow, VA on August 31st. Jewel and Melissa Etheridge are teaming up for a two-part co-headlining tour that features stops in 19 cities across North America. Plus, Etheridge has announced a run of nine co-bill dates with folk-rock duo Indigo Girls which visits Philadelphia's Mann Center on August 22nd. Following the success of last summer's joint tour, Pixies and Modest Mouse are hitting the road once again with stops at Philadelphia's Mann Pavilion June 12th and Columbia, MD Merriweather June 14th. Cat Power will also continue on the tour as support.

Rock & Roll Hall of Famers The Doobie Brothers will play 38 cities across the United States this summer, following on from last year's 50th anniversary tour. Stops include Camden, NJ August 3rd, NYC Madison Square Garden August 7th and Pittsburgh Star Lake Pavilion August 20th. Last year's tour reunited Tom Johnston, Michael McDonald, Pat Simmons and John McFee for the first time in a quarter century. The Doobies will be joined on select dates by Blues Hall of Famer Robert Cray and Grammy winner Steve Winwood.

Southern rockers The Black Crowes will tour 35 cities in North America and Europe in support of the band's first album of new music in 15 years. The "Happiness Bastards Tour," visits Washington DC's Anthem April 30th, Bethlehem, PA May 3rd and Philadelphia's Met May 7th.

P!NK added 66 new stadium tour dates for 2024, including Philadelphia's Linc Field August 18th and Hersheypark Stadium October 1st. P!NK is continuing right where she left off in 2023, selling nearly 3 million tickets and [grossing] a staggering $350 million throughout last year. Dave Matthews Band returns this summer with 32-dates including Camden, NJ July 19th and 20th.

The first round of festival announcements has included: Bonnaroo in Manchester, Tenn June 13-16 (Red Hot Chili Peppers, Post Malone, Fred Again..). Boston Calling in Massachusetts May 24-26 (Ed Sheeran, Tyler Childers, The Killers). BottleRock in Napa Valley, CA May 24-26 (Ed Sheeran, Pearl Jam, Stevie Nicks, Megan Thee Stallion). Governors Ball in Queens, NY June 7-9 (SZA, Killers, Post Malone). New Orleans Jazz & Heritage Festival April 25-28 (The Rolling Stones, Foo Fighters, Neil Young & Crazy Horse, Chris Stapleton, The Killers). Just Like Heaven festival in Pasadena, CA May 18 (The Postal Service, Death Cab For Cutie, Phoenix, The War on Drugs, Passion Pit, Tegan and Sara). BeachLife Festival in Redondo Beach, CA May 3-5 (Sting, Incubus, My Morning Jacket, DEVO, ZZ Top).

FEBRUARY CONCERTS: Jet Silver / Jellybricks / Edgewood - Camp Hill Underground Live Feb 3. Band Of Horses - Baltimore Soundstage Feb 9. Edgewood / The Super High-Tech Jet Fighters / Bo Deadlys - Mechanicsburg Metropolis Feb 9. Cat Power - Glenside Keswick Feb 13. Militarie Gun - Philadelphia First Unitarian Feb 14. Tommy Conwell & Young Rumblers - Harrisburg XL Live Feb 17. Timmy's Creep Show / Comb Over Here- Mechanicsburg Metropolis Feb 17.

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Ten Ton Stone is a guitar driven, hard rockin', high energy party rock band based out of the Harrisburg area. Led by the soaring vocals of Holly Adams along with Cozmo Hagar and Chad Wynn on guitar/vocals, Jeff Stoner on bass/vocals, Jerry Mascaro on keyboards/vocals and Tom Kenney (Tommy) on drums, Ten Ton Stone sports a well-rounded repertoire of classic rock hits and party anthems from some of the great pop and rock bands of all time. TTS turns up the heat with faithful versions of beloved party rock anthems by artists such as AC/DC, Foreigner, Heart, Journey, Kiss, Led Zeppelin, Prince, Scorpions, ZZ Top and almost anything in between. The band performs with an infectious fuel injected passion that grabs hold of audiences and doesn't let go from first note to last call.

Growing up in the eighties, Tommy witnessed the glitz, glam and all of the decadent, spectacular shows of the bands of the time. "I really look at a Ten Ton Stone performance as a show and not just a bunch of people getting on a stage playing music. A lot of thought and effort goes into the planning of song selection and set lists. When people come to see us perform, I'd like to think that we bring back all of those fun memories of their youth through our music."

Formed during the height of Covid in April of 2020, Ten Ton Stone was founded by Tommy and Paul Wolfe in Dillsburg, PA. Paul quickly recruited Jeff to play bass and for several months because of social distancing restrictions, we slowly worked with a small handful of singers and guitarists including Paul's brother Chad Wolfe (Wolfie). After several rehearsals and a few band member changes, Jeff invited his former friend and bandmate Holly Adams to come out and audition. I am sure that it is no surprise to anyone, but Holly's vocal abilities blew our socks off and on October 1st, 2020, Ten Ton Stone was born! We played our first show at Big Bottom Brewery in Dillsburg on April 10th, 2021 and haven't looked back since!

One of the questions we get asked most is "How did you come up with the name and what does it mean? It's a much longer story but to make it short and sweet, we formed on October 1st in a basement on Stonebridge Drive. Ten One Stonebridge was our point and we narrowed it down to Ten Ton Stone! Our logo was designed by Tim Failor of KD Graphix in Lewisberry, PA and is loosely based on the McAuley Schenker Group logo!

We have been fortunate to play at some amazing venues and events including the 2022 Ford Nationals in Carlisle, the 2023 Hanover Chili Festival, Racehorse Tavern, Jen-Jen's Rhythm & Brews, Sherman's Creek Inn, Red Rose Restaurant and Lounge, Public House At The Markets and Creekside Grille. 2024 is shaping up to be an awesome year for Ten Ton Stone and we are working on some big shows that we hope to be able to announce soon!

The band has gone through some line-up changes over the years. Cozmo Hagar made his electrifying debut as a fill-in with the band at the 2022 Ford Nationals in Carlisle in May of 2022 and became a permanent member shortly afterwards. We then recruited another of Jeff's friend's and bandmate Jerry Mascaro to run our sound. Once we realized that Jerry was a very talented keyboardist and vocalist, it was a no brainer to bring him aboard as a full-fledged member of the band. Chad Wynn joined us in October of 2022 and debuted a couple months later at our New Years Eve show at Sherman's Creek Inn!

Tommy stated, "Changes can be difficult but I feel that the band is stronger than ever and each change has resulted in continued improvements to our sound and overall show. On behalf of the band, Ten Ton Stone would like to formally thank our family, friends, fans and venues for your continued support through the years! We couldn't have done any of this without YOU! We are looking forward to rocking with you for many years to come! YOU ROCK!"

Introducing to you —TEN TON STONE:

Holly Adams (Lead Vocals) - Holly has been singing since she was a little girl. She took voice lessons at Demelfi School of Music for 5 years and was also a part of the Pennsylvania Theater of Performing Arts for a short period of time. She has always loved to perform and entertain, while longing to join a band. Around 2016 that dream came true when guitarist Jeff Stoner (now our current bassist for Ten Ton Stone), asked her to join his band My Medication. After disbanding around 2018 and fast forwarding to 2020, Jeff once again invited Holly to join him and his buddies in Ten Ton Stone, a classic rock, party-band. We began playing more obscure, b-side hits and progressed to now playng almost anything that can make you move and groove!

Tom (Tommy) Kenney (Drums) – Tommy is the driving force behind Ten Ton Stone. "This is the type of band I have always dreamed about playing in. Coming out of musical retirement after the unexpected and devastating loss of my wife in 2015, I joined Strange Eden in late 2016 and performed with them through the summer of 2017. I did some fill in gigs here and there with bands such as Override and Element 22, as well as a punk Halloween band called Transylvania 666 in 2018, releasing a CD entitled No Costume, No Candy. I joined the hard rock 80s band Scarlett in late 2019 but that band imploded in early 2020. It was then that I decided to form my own band and Ten Ton Stone was born!" In addition to driving the rhythm of the band from behind the drums, Tommy runs the band's website and social media pages, promotes the band through advertisements and posters, and does most of the booking for the band. "It may sound like a lot work to some people, but for me, It truly is a Labor Of Love!

Jeff Stoner (Bass/Vocals) - Jeff has been surrounded by music since birth as his father, Danny Stoner (Nightwind / Soul Solution) was a central PA musician. Jeff played saxophone in middle and high school concert, jazz and marching band. He started his first of several bands in high school where he played guitar, sang lead vocals and wrote originals. He enjoyed the most success in his original focused Reggae/Rock band, My Medication. He eventually joined his friend's band, Plaid Cow Project, as the bassist and backup vocalist. Following Plaid Cow, he was asked to join Ten Ton Stone as their bassist. The rest is history!

Cozmo "Hagar" (Guitars/Vocals) Cozmo began a lifelong obsession with music at age 12, playing drums in school marching and concert bands. At 14, fueled by his siblings' musical interests, he turned his focus to electric guitar. He honed his attention to musical detail studying music theory and playing in basements and garages until 1997, when he accepted a spot playing his all-time guitar hero Ace Frehley in the touring Kiss Tribute band Cold Gin. Playing across the country, Cold Gin was an invaluable crash course in the ups and downs of live performance, and those lessons followed him through several central PA bands, including Gunshy, Rockdog, Brokin Cyrcle, and Override. In 2022, he brought his Sammy Hagar hair, zebra print bandanas, and guitar antics to Ten Ton Stone, rocking dance floors across central PA.

Jerry Mascaro (Keyboards/Vocals) Jerry plays keyboards, sings background vocals and coordinates Ten Ton Stone's sound reinforcement. He received his music education from a very early age performing in and leading church choirs, musical theater, wind ensembles, drum and bugle corps, and cover bands. He was the front man and lead singer of Tubetop Mama (from southeast PA) and Plaid Cow Project (from East Berlin, PA). Ten Ton Stone is a party rock band who loves to entertain and get the crowd dancing. Fans can expect a great night of kick-ass rock entertainment!

Chad Wynn (TC/ the Chad) (Guitar Vocals) - Chad has been playing music since he started forming memories. For the most part Chad has been playing in churches, occasionally helping out inclusive churches like Trinity UCC in Mountville. He eventually studied music at Millersville University, taught voice and guitar lessons at Links Music in Hanover. In addition to playing in Ten Ton Stone, Chad is the touring guitar player for Lives Lost. "I feel like any musical project I have been involved in has made it a priority to spread good vibes. I think of TTS as a joy distributor and consider TTS to be the party rock band of central PA!

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RIDER'S ON THE STORM

By Chris Rider

Another month up and quickly down, it was definitely an interesting month. January brought some brutal cold weather and even a few small snow storms that I have to admit I enjoyed for the first time in a few years. The month also brought some great music with good friends.

Our first trip out was down to the Doyle Hotel in Duncannon which always means great food, drink and tunes. Once we got there, we realized that a bunch of my friends from Waynestock were also there that night which made for an awesome bonus. Speaking of Waynestock, give that festival (coming in June) a look if you haven't yet, it's one of the best in the country although I might be a little biased LOL. Playing this night was Nate and Pete of Nate Myers & The Aces. I'm not sure if I should call them Nate & The Ace, or 2/3's Aces, or just Nate and Pete...

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but I knew it was going to be a great night. The guys covered a bunch of songs like What You Want, On The Road Again and Ain't No Sunshine as well as a few originals. Nate voice filled the ball room upstairs nicely for a great crowd.

My next trip out was down to Live Underground (the

Nate Myers

old Gullifty's) in New Cumberland for the Road To Memphis, a benefit jam with Alex Lee Warner to help him raise funds for his trip to Memphis which he completed the following week (and included stops in Nashville & Mississippi as well!). Alex jammed out on stage with a plethora of local artists with including a bunch from the Blues Society Of Central Pennsylvania. I don't get to attend BSoCP events as often as I'd like admittedly, but every

Pete Netznik

time I do I'm struck by how awesome all of their members are both musically and just as human beings. Their support for our local blues scene is awesome.

A few days ago, I trekked down to Lovedrafts Brewing in Mechanicsburg to finally catch a show from Y2Kids. I've caught Ed Allison in several of his other projects and was happy to get the opportunity to catch this one. Bringing a ton of hits from the 2000's and grenres like rock, pop, country and almost everything in between, the guys even took requests from the crowd from a song list as long as my arm. It's clear they've worked hard to have such a wide selection of music to play for their fans and they bring such a great energy to the stage that they're a blast to watch.

Our last trip out this month was back down to The Doyle in Duncannon. While we enjoyed a great dinner, I had the pleasure of having a great conversation with the owner, Don who told me about the new coffee shop he's opening up within the next week or so on the first floor. Anyone that knows me knows I love

Road to Memphis Benefit

a good cup of coffee (or three!), so I'm pretty excited about this news. Don also recently bought a hotel property up in Newport and is planning to have it set up much like the Doyle. I have to admit, it'll be nice to have another cool place up here in Perry county to hit up for good food, drink and live music so keep your eyes open for that! After dinner, we headed upstairs to the ballroom where Colt Wilbur was playing a solo acoustic show. Colt's booming voice traveled easily throughout the upstairs and even down the stairs to the main floor, belting out covers from George Jones, Johnny Cash, The Doors and Jackson Brown as well as a few great originals. Colt has a faithful following and it showed this night as he had the room absolutely packed! I want to give a special shoutout to my buddy Izzy, a local that's frequently at the

Road to Memphis Benefit

Road to Memphis Benefit

Doyle, for pulling my girl out on the floor to dance for a song as well. Awesome job man, and she had a blast!

Since I have some extra room here this month, a few other things to bring up: First of all, as I mentioned above, if you haven't checked out my buddy Wayne's festival in beautiful West Virginia "Waynestock", you really should. Taking control of a whole campground for the weekend, there's music every night including, but not limited to, The Roof, Kyle Sparkman, Rivers, and Cass And The Bailout Crew. During the day there's a ton of stuff to do like whitewater rafting, hiking, climbing, disc golf, waterfall swimming and much more. The local town of Fayetteville is very cool with a ton of shops, restaurants, breweries and other cool places to check out. There's honestly a ton of somethings for everybody. Second, I wanted to bring up the Central Pennsylvania Music Awards. I've been nominated for Best Photography for the fifth year in a row which is just such a huge honor for me. I'm nominated alongside four other great local music photogs: Rock Documented (who won the very first CPMA for Best Photography), Frances Axsmith (who won last year's award for Best Photography), Doctor D, and Mary Yeager Photography. Seriously, all four of them are incredible music photographers and I'm humbled to be nominated beside them. If you're not familiar with any of their work, please do me a favor and go check them out, give them a like and/or follow on their social media to help support their work in our local music scene. I'm not asking you to vote for me; but I AM asking you to vote for someone! The more activity we can get for this worthy cause, the better IMO; and while you're there you may as well vote for your favorite bands, venues and other assorted folks in so many categories :) Voting opens up on February 4th and goes through the 13th. As you go through the multitude of categories, if you see bands in genres that speak to you but you aren't familiar with a particular band, give them a look on their socials... you might just find your new favorite band! I might also mention that there are still tickets available for the event at the Hershey Theater on Thursday, March 28th. It's honestly just a really cool event celebrating and supporting our great local music scene, I highly recommend it.

So there it is, my month of music through my eyes and ears. I want to once again thank all the bands, venues, and everyone else involved in our incredible local music scene for everything they do. Just a reminder: if you've got a show coming up that I should see; make sure to send me an invite, shoot me an email or a message, let me know about it. Venues: please don't hesitate to reach out to me as well. The majority of the shows that I go and shoot I find out about through invites from all of you or your friends. Hit me up on facebook: @chrisriderphotography or email: chrisriderphotography@gmail.com, stop me if you see me and say hi. Until next month...go find some live music and give them and the venue your support, they truly need it more now than they ever did.

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THE PROFESSOR

By Jim Price

This month's article will be a rare short one from me, as the combination of wintry weather and a nasty throat illness limited my opportunities to see live music in recent weeks.

I did get to ring in New Year 2023 with the PennSoulvanians, who hosted a Masquerade Party at McGarvey's in Altoona. The masked and costumed cast of singer and guitarist Chet Denny, MC Michael "DuVille" Thomas, guitarist Nate Nagle, keyboardist Brett Fanelli, sax player Lyndsay Reilly, bassist Aaron Kenawell and drummer Randy Sciarrillo guided the festive audience toward the stroke of midnight with two sets of their captivating, multi-flavored original songs; including numbers from their recently-issued self-titled debut EP. Highlights were numerous, including favorites such as "Hustle Til the Morning," "Day Has Come," "PennSoulvania," "Bounce Back" from the EP, "40 Acres," plus "Crime to Be Curious" and the reggae-toned "Pilgrimage" from the EP. After the clock struck midnight, The PennSoulvanians returned to close out the night with three more songs – their edgy number about accountability and living up to one's word, "Swagger," along with "Third Time" and their fun nightlife ode "Last Call" to end the night. Again, musicianship, melodies and chemistry between the band members was excellent throughout the night, and The PennSoulvanians' distinctive blend of styles and infectious grooves kept the New Years Eve revelers happy from start to end. The PennSoulvanians will provide the entertainment for the second annual African American Heritage Festival Prom Night fundraiser, happening February 10 at The Casino at Altoona's Lakemont Park.

The first band I got to see in 2024 beyond New Year's Eve was The Warped Band, making its first visit to McGarvey's. Evolving from State College punk cover group SouthPaw, The

Brett Fanelli of The PennSoulvanians

Warped Band celebrates the music of bands and performers who have played in the Warped Tour. The house was jam-packed as singer, guitarist and ringleader Drew Zimmerman, guest singer Ryan Sharp (of western PA's Midnight Lights), drummer Austin Weaver and bassist Justin Levendusky lit up the crowd with high-octane tunes from Rancid, Blink-182, Good Charlotte, Panic! At The Disco, Jimmy Eat World, Mighty Mighty Bosstones, Bowling For Soup, Wheatus, The All-American Rejects, NOFX, Green Day and more. The Warped Band kept the energy level high through it all with constant movement on stage, and Drew frequently rallied the crowd into sing-along and jumping frenzies. The Warped Band won many new fans this night, and they will return to McGarvey's on May 4.

Michael "DuVille" Thomas
The PennSoulvanians

The Kevin Briggs Blues Experience from State College brought strong-sounding blues to McGarvey's last month. Namesake Kevin sang and played guitar; flanked by the group's newest member, Steve Branstetter on guitar, plus bassist Chris Gallagher and drummer Sean Hershey. This group mixed up a wide range of blues sounds spanning classic and traditional blues to blues-rock, country blues and more. Kevin delivered a soulful and gritty voice up front, and he and the band delivered tight grooves as they performed numbers from Jimmy Reed, Bobby "Blue" Bland, The Fabulous Thunderbirds, Otis Redding, Hank Williams, J.J. Cale, Elmore James and more. Some song highlights included renditions of Jimi Hendrix's "Red House," Wilbert Harrison's "Kansas City," Bob Dylan's "Leopard Skin Pill-Box Hat," Howlin' Wolf's "Killin' Floor," Johnny Cash's "Folsom Prison Blues," the traditional favorite "Deep Elem Blues" and more. Kevin and Steve frequent-

continued on next page...

Sterling Koch

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The Professor continued...

ly engaged in exciting guitar jams and duels to keep things exciting through the course of the performance. If you're a blues connoisseur, make a point to check out the Kevin Briggs Blues Experience on area stages; you won't be disappointed!

I caught up with Altoona favorites Shallow 9 a couple of times last month – first as the group had a packed house partying down at Altoona's 4D's Lounge. Nate Nagle handled guitar duties this night in place of Greg Larrimore, who stepped away from the group at the end of last year. Nate joined lead singer Erika Machiel; guitarist, keyboardist and singer Ryan Weaver; bassist Mitch Neuder and drummer Todd Harshbarger in generating the feverish dance party. Shallow 9 kept the busy dance floor churning with plentiful rock, soul and pop favorites – everything from The Cranberries' "Zombie" to the Jackson 5's "ABC" to Joan Jett's "I Love Rock'n'Roll" to Cee-Lo Green's "Forget You" to Alanis Morisette's "You Oughta Know" to the night-closing version of The Darkness' "I Believe In A Thing Called Love," medleys and much more. The energy between band and crowd was constant, and smiles were abundant throughout the night. Shallow 9 returns to the 4D's on February 17.

Lyndsay Reilly of The PennSoulvanians

And Shallow 9 provided the music during the annual Central PA Humane Society's Chili Fest and Wings fundraiser at Altoona's Bavarian Aid Society upstairs hall. Attendees savored and voted for their favorite chilis and wings from area eateries and cooks, before burning off those calories on the dance floor as Shallow 9 – this night with Greg Folsom handling guitar duties opposite Ryan Weaver – played a variety of current and classic pop, rock, funk, hip-hop and other favorites. Proceeds from the event helped out the shelter animals at the Humane Society.

Altoona-based hard rockers Maul returned to action last month after a nearly two-year absence, headlining a band triple-bill at McGarvey's. Toy the Band had already completed their opening set by the time I arrived. Walkney took the stage next with their set of lively, melody-geared alternative rock. Singer, guitarist and group mainstay Derek Mrdjenovich, lead guitarist Nate Nagle, bassist Nik Mik and drummer David Applas played through an assortment of original songs. Derek introduced new numbers such as "Future Desire" and "Log Jam," and he and the group kept the energy constant throughout the set. Maul then finished the night with their strong return. Singer Todd McKeone, guitarists Eric Prindible and Nate Nagle (yes, Nate is everywhere!), bassist Tanner Thomas and drummer David Applas played modern-edged, riff-rocking original songs. This group again displayed interesting melodies and song hooks, brought to life with powerful arrangements and tight execution. I didn't catch too many song titles, but did recognize one of my favorites from before the group's layoff, "Keep That Light Inside." Maul plans to resume work on their debut recording; keep an eye out for Maul sightings in the coming months.

Nate Nagle of The PennSoulvanians

Mitch Neuder of Shallow 9

Sweet Desire and Half Tempted joined forces for a fun night of classic-flavored rock at Altoona's Kryptonite Nightclub last month. Half Tempted kicked things off with their reliable mix of hard-hitting classic rock. Singer, guitarist and group ringleader Ron Dalansky, guitarist Jim Mincin, bassist Todd Batzel and drummer Doug Stephens played numbers from Ozzy-era Black Sabbath, Kiss, Mountain, Thin Lizzy, Pink Floyd, Bad Company,

continued on next page...

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The Professor continued...

and – of course – AC/DC. Few can sing Bon Scott-era AC/DC the way Ron can, and he demonstrated that with versions of "The Jack" and "Highway to Hell," with Sweet Desire guitarist Kenton Lewis joining in on the former. Sweet Desire then followed with their strong set, mixing select classic rock covers with a number of original songs. Singer Jordan McCaulley, Kenton on guitar, bassist Joshua Simpson and drummer Trey Boore opened with an extended jam edition of Eric Clapton's "After Midnight," and proceeded with a Doors triple-shot medley of "Roadhouse Blues,"

Todd Batzel & Ron Dalansky of Half Tempted

"Break On Through" and "Back Door Man," versions of Rufus Thomas/Aerosmith's "Walkin' the Dog," the Rolling Stones' "Jumping Jack Flash" and the Aerosmith-popularized "Train Kept A Rollin.'" Sweet Desire did plenty of their own songs as well, including their new self-titled single to close out their set. The group again demonstrated their ability to escalate songs into powerful and intense crescendos, with all four members going all-out. When the large Kryptonite crowd called for more, Sweet Desire responded with their version of Cactus' "Evil" to close out the night.

Kevin, Sean & Steve of
The Kevin Briggs Blues Experience

News and Notes…Parrot Heads unite, as Cousin Mike and Ryan Matthew will perform during a special tribute to Jimmy Buffett on Feb. 3 at Hollidaysburg's U.S. Hotel, with proceeds going to the American Cancer Society…The Pines and Felix & the Hurricanes will again team up to provide the music during the second annual Nicholas Foreman Overdose Awareness Benefit, which will take place on Feb. 10 at the Gallitzin American Legion…Nanty Glo-based hard rockers Emmy & the Geriatrics have added a new bass player, Jon Henry, and are also contemplating a name change…Popular Buffalo, New York rock group the Ozone Rangers – who were frequent flyer performers on central and western PA stages during the late 1980s and 90s – decided to call it a day after a 44-year run…The area music scene was saddened by the passing of Ed Decker on January 4 at age 82; Ed was an original member of Altoona area bluegrass group Mountain City Grass, where he played guitar and sang tenor…The area music scene also mourned the passing of Mario Crocetti on January 24, just days after he celebrated his 96th birthday. Mario was known as a longtime accordionist, and taught accordion and guitar lessons for several decades.

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REMEMBERING MARIO CROCETTI

By Jim Price

The west-central PA music community lost a longtime member and staple with the passing of Mario Crocetti on January 24th; he had just celebrated his 96th birthday earlier in the month. Mario was a longtime musician, known for his skills on accordion, and he taught accordion and guitar lessons for many years through the 1980s. I was one of his students.

If I go back to my own beginnings as far as music is concerned, Mario played a big role in helping to plant the seed of music in my life. I took accordion lessons from Mario as a youngster in the early 1970s, and he was the first person to teach me how to read music and play a musical instrument. Monday nights were accordion lesson nights; I'll always remember practicing hard every night in the basement of my house to learn songs in the Sedlon Accordion Method books as best I could for the next Monday night lesson, in the hopes that Mario would pencil in an "OK" next to each song I had learned to his satisfaction.

Although I eventually lost interest in the accordion as I started entering my teenage years and discovered that thing called rock'n'roll, I still found myself going back to picking up the accordion from time to time and revisiting those Sedlon books. And relearning the songs in those books was one of the ways I coped with staying at home during the recent COVID-19 shutdown.

In recent years, I looked forward to going to see Mario and his group when they performed at area carnival and festival events. I enjoyed chatting with him and watching his group perform their musical mix of pop standards, swing music, polkas, and even some Elvis Presley tunes and old-time country favorites. And I even got to write about his group a few times here in PA Musician Magazine.

Mario was inspirational to me because of his dedication to music, his longevity and passion of keeping his music alive. He kept performing publicly well into his 90s. I'll fondly remember the last time I got to see him perform, during last summer's St. Benedict Catholic Church Festival in Carrolltown. It was heartwarming to see Mario with his son Mike on drums, his singer and longtime friend Jack Dominick on lead vocals, and Brian Regala on saxophone, as they brought smiles and heartfelt applause from the audience, and even had toddlers up and dancing to their music. I'm thankful that I got to see that performance and capture some smartphone video of it.

Mario was also a creator who wrote and composed his own music. I still have – along with those Sedlon Accordion Method books – a piece of sheet music for Mario's original composition called "The Flying Cadet March." I once attempted to learn to play that march as a youngster; I hope to break out the accordion and give it another try sometime soon when I have some free time.

Needless to say, Mario Crocetti left a positive mark on my life, and for that I am very thankful. And as I remember him, I think of all the lives he and his music touched, from the audiences he entertained through the years, to all the youngsters who took his music lessons – and even for those kids who didn't stick with music for the long term, the sense of accomplishment they experienced whenever Mario marked his "OK's" into their music books.

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PA MUSICIAN REVIEWS

By Jim Price

HATE GRENADE – iSOCIETY (no label) Marking ten years of pulling the pin on their explosive brand of nu-metal on Pennsylvania stages and beyond, Altoona's Hate Grenade ratchets the firepower up further with their fourth release, "iSociety." The cast of frontman Jeff Glace, guitarist Chuck Lavera, bassist Donny Death and drummer Mike Powers detonates nine new assaults (including a bonus track, "Bipolar"); showcasing crusher, groove-laced nu-metal soundscapes, assisted and punctuated with hip-hop interludes and digital breakdowns. This is their strongest set yet – the songs ignite with fury and purpose, with dynamic and turbulent arrangements, go-for-broke riffs and rhythms, and Jeff's emotive delivery spanning cynical raps and sass to intense vocal meltdowns. The lyrics largely deal with a current world of turmoil and the struggles of surviving that world; the title track "iSociety" angrily expresses that anxiety, with Jeff asking "Will we ever recover...what's wrong from right?" Riding Chuck's

driving and unrelenting riff, "Chaos Theory" observes a world going out of control and laments the loss of hope. Heartbeats and heart monitors adorn the soundscape of the intense "Rx," about angst and paranoia brought on by misdirected meds. Hate Grenade also dresses down the plasticity and phoniness of Tinseltown on the scathing "Hollywood" and directs anger within on "My Hell," but also shows a milder and despair-driven tone on the half-sung, half-rapped "Let Me Down." Hate Grenade pulls all stops here; they execute these songs with all-out ferocity, seething with attitude and street smarts from start to end. Recorded by the group and mixed and mastered by Jeff Glace, "iSociety" sounds sharp, visceral and full. This is Hate Grenade's strongest effort yet - "iSociety" shows a band with laser-sharp focus and intensity, and delivers maximum agitation from start to finish. Pull the pin! (The album can be obtained and accessed through the group's website, www.hategrenade.com, and through Apple and Amazon.)

MONSTER TRACK SUPERGROUP – VOLUME III (no label) Monster Track Supergroup first came together in 2010 as a "supergroup" merging three prominent musicians of the north-central PA music scene: White Witch singer Jeff Pittinger, Badlees multi-instrumentalist and mainstay Bret Alexander and former Breaking Benjamin drummer Jeremy Hummel. On their first two EP's, 2011's "Volume I" and 2013's "Volume II," the group brought to life several pop and rock classics from the 1970s, as well as a couple of Jeff's original song creations. For the latest EP, "Volume III," Monster Track Supergroup has grown with the addition of two more established musicians – Bret's Badlees cohort Paul Smith on bass and Hybrid Ice's Rusty Foulke on 12-string acoustic guitar, plus some contributing guests through the course of the EP's four song remakes. Released during the 2023 Christmas season, proceeds from sales of the EP benefit Toys for Tots. In the Christmas spirit, the EP starts off with the group's rendition of Brenda Lee's 1958 Christmas hit "Rockin' Around the Christmas Tree," first issued in 2017; Jeff's voice smoothly captures the range and inflections of Brenda's vocals from the original version, and the group's arrangement matches the joyful vibe of the original, with guest Nick Driscoll's mid-song saxophone solo giving a fresh touch to the song. Another saxophone-playing guest, Erick Paredes, adorns the group's version of Supertramp's 1977 hit "Give A Little Bit," with the musicians staying true to the original while they 'give a little bit' of added rock guitar muscle along the way. Guest Joe Gaughan provides the piano backdrop behind Jeff's vocal during a tender take on Carole King's "Home Again," originally from her chart-topping 1971 album "Tapestry." And guest Gary Lynn adds extra guitar lightning to the group's rip-roaring version of ZZ Top's 1975 classic "Tush" to close the set. As with the previous EP's, Monster Track Supergroup accurately captures the moods and tones of the original versions of these songs, while adding a few of their own nuances to make the renditions their own. Jeff again displays enthusiasm as he flexes his smooth vocal range on each song. The overall production sounds full and crisp, with all the group's components coming through clearly in the mix. Monster Track Supergroup's "Volume III" shows seasoned musicians having fun injecting new life into time-tested classics, and provides an enjoyable listen. (The EP can be obtained through Monster Track Supergroup's Facebook page, www.facebook.com/monstertracksupergroup, or through Bret Alexander's website, www.bretalexanderonline.com/music.)

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